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it would be a very wise precaution should all the States of the South forbid the dismantling of such old buildings at any time between the 1st of April and the 1st of November.

Respectfully, yours,

WALTER WYMAN,
Supervising Surgeon-General, U. S. M. H. S.

Dr. EDMOND SOUCHON,

President State Board of Health, New Orleans, La.

The president of the State board of health of Louisiana replied as follows:

NEW ORLEANS, May 6, 1899.

SIR: I have received your letter of May 3, inviting my attention to the importance of not allowing old buildings which have once been infected with yellow fever to be dismantled in summer.

I will send a circular letter to all of our health officers, parish and municipal, to that effect.

Yours, very truly,

EDMOND SOUCHON, M. D.,
President Louisiana State Board of Health.

The SUPERVISING SURGEON-GENERAL,

U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

[Reports to the Supervising Surgeon-General United States Marine-Hospital Service.]

Cerebro-spinal meningitis—Abstract of replies received to circular requesting information.

[Continued from last PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS.]

LOUISIANA—*Shreveport*.—During the two weeks ended May 7, 1899, 6 deaths from cerebro-spinal meningitis were reported. Since January 31, 26 deaths have resulted from cerebro-spinal meningitis.

SOUTH CAROLINA—*Charleston*.—Since April 29, 1899, 3 deaths from cerebro-spinal meningitis are reported.

Smallpox in the United States.

ALABAMA.

Mobile.—Surgeon Murray reports, May 5, 2 cases of smallpox admitted to pesthouse on May 1 and May 2, respectively.

CALIFORNIA.

Los Angeles.—Health officer reports 1 case of smallpox and 1 death from same on April 30.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

Washington.—Deputy Health Officer McLean reports, May 4, no new cases; 29 cases in hospital and 5 houses in quarantine. May 5, 1 suspicious case under observation; May 6, no new cases. There were 23 cases on hand and 4 houses in quarantine.

INDIANA.

Evansville.—Passed Assistant Surgeon Oakley reports 12 cases during the month of April, and 12 cases remaining at the close of the month. The health officer of Evansville reports 9 cases remaining May 6.

KANSAS.

Emporia.—Secretary of State Board of Health Gill reports 4 cases of smallpox, and source of infection as probably Newton, Harvey County, Kansas.

City of Garnett.—Secretary of State Board of Health Gill reports 1 case; source of infection not stated.

LOUISIANA.

New Orleans.—Secretary Patton of the State board of health reports, for the week ended April 29, 8 new cases and 1 death.

MARYLAND.

Baltimore.—Surgeon Purviance reports, May 2, 2 cases in the last three days.

The Maryland State board of health has passed the following order to prevent the spread of smallpox in that State:

By virtue of authority conveyed in section 8 of article 43, Code of Public General Laws, 1888, title Health, it is ordered by the State board of health that on and after April 1, 1899, no small-fruit grower, canner, truck farmer, or fish packer shall take into his employ any person or persons who do not show written proof of vaccination of more recent date than July, 1898. Any person or persons violating this law shall be fined not less than \$50 nor exceeding \$500.

JOHN S. FULTON, *Secretary.*

Passed March 9, 1899.

MASSACHUSETTS.

Boston.—Surgeon Irwin reports, May 3, no new cases. Total to date, 9, deaths, 1.

MINNESOTA.

St. Paul.—Secretary of State board of health reports 1 case smallpox for week ended April 29.

PENNSYLVANIA.

Erie.—Acting Assistant Surgeon Hunter reports 1 case on May 2.

TEXAS.

El Paso.—Acting Assistant Surgeon Alexander reports, May 3, as follows:

I have the honor to report that I am still enforcing the quasi-quarantine to the best of my ability and with excellent results, for there are now no cases of smallpox known to me on either side of the river, though as it is well known that the Mexicans hide their cases even from the doctors, there may be, and probably still are, cases in Juarez. There are 2 convalescents in the pesthouse in this city.

Free vaccination by the authorities still continues on both sides. Many of the Mexicans are strenuously opposed to this, and thus many are still unvaccinated. All such are not allowed to pass from one city to the other. This prohibition causes many to seek vaccination and must eventually cause them all to do so. This applies almost entirely to adults and the old people. Most of the children and young people are vaccinated. This is due to the schools, the attendance upon which makes vaccination compulsory.

The close inspection of several thousand Mexicans which this quarantine has made necessary, has revealed the fact, surprising even to me, who has had so large an experience with Mexicans, that quite two-thirds of them, and I am inclined to think even a greater proportion, have at sometime in their lives had smallpox, and from this, too, I am forced to the conviction that, as American residents in Mexico generally believe, the Mexicans with their wide experience have acquired a skillful if not a profound knowledge of the treatment of smallpox, which it would be well for us to study. Hence this, with their superstition, their stoicism, and fatalism, induces them to desire that their children may have smallpox in their infancy or youth, feeling toward it precisely as the American mother feels toward the measles, having no greater dread of it, and indeed among them it is scarcely more fatal.

From this, one can well understand how difficult it is to deal with such conditions and to enforce sanitary regulations upon a people who in every sentiment and fiber of their being resent it. They are, however, being rapidly educated to its necessities. This quarantine is arousing them. Enforce it at proper seasons for a few years and the good work will have been accomplished.

From 10 a. m. to 6 p. m. in each day, Sundays included, I am at the bridge, the principal egress and exit of this city with Mexico, issuing or refusing to issue certificates, as the case requires, vaccinating some, turning back others, disinfecting, and exercising to the straining, and sometimes breaking point, such virtues of patience and forbearance as I can command, which a proper knowledge of the Mexicans and their language demands and renders possible.

Then at 7.20 p. m. I meet the incoming Mexican Central train at Juarez and give that the necessary inspection. For many months past, and until the last few days, the bed of the Rio Grande River has been dry, and thus about 20 per cent of the Mexican population has escaped all scrutiny, using the bed of the river to cross instead of the highways, and now since there is water sufficient to put an end to this, that class of contrabands, we may well say, have suddenly, and for several days past, been much in evidence and have given me much trouble at the bridge where I am stationed. These, however, will all be disposed of in a few days. Sunday past there was a great crowd of them there all day, and I had 2 accomplished vaccinators there to assist me in vaccinating and managing them.

Your wire regarding yellow fever at Vera Cruz was duly received and carefully noted.

I advised you by wire that there was a fresh outbreak of smallpox at Las Cruces, New Mexico, a town about 50 miles north from here. The population being almost wholly Mexican, the same conditions apply as cited above regarding the Mexicans here. A number of other Mexican towns in that territory are likewise infected, the people of which seem indifferent or incapable of dealing with it, and the American element may ask federal aid.

The board of health of this city are fully informed of the situation,

and will, I trust, take the necessary precautionary measures, though thus far there is no suspension of intercourse with Las Cruces. Nearly every day we meet people from that place.

Last month I issued 870 certificates and refused a large number.

Of those whom I permitted to pass, 142 had been afflicted with smallpox in its confluent type, three-fourths of whom were of a recent date, and nine-tenths were Mexicans, and all who were refused admission were of the same nationality. This indicates plainly the nature and extent of the recent epidemic.

Galveston.—Acting Assistant Surgeon Keiller reports 5 new cases for week ended April 29.

Laredo.—Acting Assistant Surgeon Hamilton reports April 25 as follows:

The quarantine guards at Carrizo and San Ignacio, Tex., were discharged April 20 according to instructions. I have reliable information that there is no smallpox in Zapata County, Tex., nor in Guerrero, Mexico.

The situation in Laredo, Tex., is improving. Report for the week ended April 22: 3 cases and 1 death; at Nuevo Laredo, Mexico. 1 death from smallpox. On April 24 I inclosed mortuary report for week ended April 22, 1899, and I will obtain report weekly hereafter.

International foot and tramway bridge report: Vaccinated, 20; deported, 1; examined and passed, 1,642; total examined for week ended April 22, 1899, 1,663. The average entry over this bridge daily is from 300 to 500 persons, but all are not examined, as from frequent crossing they are well known to guards. I have at present detained at Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, 2 persons from Vera Cruz and 1 from Tampico. I hold them five days after disinfection of baggage.

The railroad entering Laredo from Mexico does not bring any cars that run to Mexican Gulf cities. All persons coming in necessarily have changed cars at one or more points. I hereby send list of passengers entering at this port. I send number registering from cities having direct railroad connection with Tampico and Vera Cruz, viz: Tampico with Monterey and San Luis Potosi; Vera Cruz with City of Mexico. Persons coming on train generally state that they are from place at which they boarded the train, but if they also swear to that I sometimes catch them by their baggage, as nearly or may be all baggage passing out of Tampico and Vera Cruz has a label on with date, and if not torn off in transit helps to keep a check on entry of baggage and individuals.

Entry of persons on Mexican National Railroad for week ended April 15: From Monterey, 58; San Luis Potosi, 9; Mexico City, 47; other points, 56; total, 170. Week ended April 22: Monterey, 82; San Luis Potosi, 13; Mexico City, 46; other points, 72; total, 213. This does not include those entering from Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, and persons whom I have detained at Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, for quarantine and disinfection.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Hamilton reports, April 30, as follows:

I telegraphed you yesterday recommending the discharge of the man disinfecting mail, as this State removes quarantine to-morrow against Laredo, Tex., and there is no necessity for disinfecting mail.

I will retain guards at international foot bridge on account of smallpox at Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, but I expect it will be clean in a very short time.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Hamilton reports, May 1, as follows :

I have this day received telegram to discharge disinfecter of mail at this point. The State took off quarantine against Laredo, Tex., to-day. The State has employed a physician to visit Monterey and Tampico to investigate those points relative to yellow fever, and anything I learn from him I will wire you if of any consequence. He leaves here for those points to-day. The State health officer informed me that he would keep me informed of what the State agent discovered. I stopped 2 persons on the frontier and returned them to Mexico on April 30. They were from Tuxpan, Mexico, via Tampico, forty-five hours out from Tampico; returned for disinfection of baggage and detention. As I have no authority for detention camp here, I do not allow suspects to enter, but they with 1 exception during this quarantine season have been disinfected at Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, and spent the desired time there. As yet the Mexican authorities have put no restrictions on their movements while on the Mexican side, but I am informed that they intend to do so in the near future. I am informed daily of their health, and in that way keep track of them.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Hamilton reports, May 3, as follows :

I continue passenger inspection of trains entering from Mexico. April 23, I returned 1 man to Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, for detention and disinfection of baggage. April 24, 1 man returned for same purpose, from Vera Cruz, Mexico. April 30, 2 men from Tampico, Mexico. The last 2 are still at Nuevo Laredo, Mexico. None of these persons have had any suspicious symptoms of yellow fever. Although yellow fever is denied to exist at Tampico, Mexico, I consider it a suspicious port, and disinfect all baggage coming from there.

The smallpox situation at this place is much improved. Cases for week ended April 29, 6. No deaths. State removed quarantine against this city on May 1. I have received a letter from a prominent physician of Monterey, Mexico, stating that so far this year they have not had any suspicious cases of yellow fever at that place.

I inclose mortality report of Nuevo Laredo, Mexico. I am informed they have only 2 cases of smallpox there at present, but it is hard to verify what the officials state, and I discovered 2 deaths from smallpox last week on their death register, which they had not reported to me, the judge who keeps the register is very obliging and allows me to examine register whenever I desire.

Report of international foot and tramway bridge is as follows: Vaccinated, 14; deported, 1 blind man; examined and allowed entry, 1,589; total examined, 1,603; total number that entered over bridge, 4,427. The total number I obtained from the person who collects toll on bridge, and does not include small children. I believe children under 6 years do not pay, and are therefore not registered. The inspector does not examine every person coming over bridge each time they cross, as some persons cross as many as six or more times daily and have been examined many times before, which accounts for disparity in number coming over bridge and those examined as to recent successful vaccination.

I have examined and passed on 17 immigrants, but 5 of these were returned by Immigrant Inspector Giles as follows: One woman with 4 children between 3 and 9 years of age, 1 of the children had a sty on one eye and was also suffering from conjunctivitis, but said people were returned on account of being paupers. I depend on the immigrant inspector as to who are immigrants, but I also inspect all persons on train.

Persons out from Tampico or Vera Cruz, that is, any infected port more than five or ten days with baggage that has not been disinfected, should they be detained after disinfection of baggage or allowed to go on if they leave all baggage for disinfection to be forwarded to them?

The following reply was sent in answer to the question contained in the last paragraph of the above report :

WASHINGTON, D. C., *May 5, 1899.*

SIR : Replying to your letter of May 3, and to the closing paragraph thereof, as follows :

Persons out from Tampico or Vera Cruz, that is, any infected port, more than five or ten days, with baggage that has not been disinfected, should they be detained after disinfection of baggage, or allowed to go on if they leave all baggage for disinfection, to be forwarded to them?

I have to state that persons who have been from five to ten days away from an infected yellow fever port and have not opened their baggage should be allowed to proceed, and their baggage may be disinfected and forwarded to them afterwards, provided the keys are turned over to you and the baggage is not examined or handled by the persons themselves, the principle being that the opening of the baggage by the travelers themselves would be exposing them to possible infection.

Respectfully, yours,

WALTER WYMAN,

Supervising Surgeon-General, U. S. M. H. S.

ACTING ASSISTANT SURGEON H. J. HAMILTON,

Marine-Hospital Service, Laredo, Tex.

VIRGINIA.

Newport News.—Acting Assistant Surgeon Charles reports May 1, 1 new case; May 2, no new cases, 1 death; May 3, no new cases; May 4, 2 new cases; May 5, new cases, 3.

Norfolk.—Assistant Surgeon Cumming reports May 1, no admissions, 5 discharges, on hand, 57; May 2, no admissions, 5 discharges, on hand, 46; May 3, admitted 2, discharged 0, on hand, 58; May 4, admitted 4, discharged 0, on hand, 52.

Portsmouth.—Assistant Surgeon Cumming reports May 1, 3 admissions, 1 discharged, on hand, 56; May 2, 2 admissions, none discharged, on hand, 58; May 3, admissions 1, discharged 7, on hand, 52; May 4, admissions 6, discharged none, on hand, 58.

WASHINGTON.

Spokane.—The health officer reports 2 cases of varioloid from April 22 to 29.